

Citizen Review Group  
11/17/04  
Opening comments by Herb Meade

I would like to thank each of you for taking the time to come here tonight. The Maryland Department of the Environment felt it was important to have this meeting in order to update the community leaders on activities related to the Upper Crossroads investigation. We have found that your involvement is very important and want to thank you for your assistance in providing a communication conduit to the community.

Tonight we intend to update activities that have taken place since ExxonMobil submitted the October investigation report. This meeting was originally intended to discuss the line of responsibility for ExxonMobil in the Upper Crossroads area. However, upon review of the investigation performed to date, the Department feels that such a determination would be premature. After my comments I will ask ExxonMobil to give a detail update on the activities that have occurred and Department approved plans for further investigation.

The Maryland Department of the Environment has finished preliminary review of the October investigation report. A formal comment letter will be issued to ExxonMobil within two weeks. However, our preliminary findings are that the Department agrees with the reported subsurface fracture trends, groundwater flow directions and investigation techniques used to date. We do feel that ExxonMobil needs to better address the interpretation of the data they are collecting. In other words, spell out what the data means. We also want further tests to determine the conductivity of groundwater. This means how are the supply and monitoring wells, groundwater producing fractures and petroleum contamination connected. We want additional monitoring wells and are concerned that some monitoring wells that were installed are dry. We further feel that the groundwater directional flow of the deeper zones needs to be better defined.

To this end ExxonMobil will be performing additional resistivity lines, additional monitoring wells installation, both deep and shallow, and geophysical work. All of this will lead to what is obvious becoming a very critical part the investigation, the groundwater pump test. The additional worked is being performed now in order for the execution of the pump test by the end of December. A Corrective Action Plan (CAP) will be required once the pump test is performed and the data analyzed.

The CAP will be for the area of ExxonMobils' responsibility as determined by the Department. It is the Department's intent to enter into a formal Consent Agreement with ExxonMobil once a CAP is approved. The Department will allow ExxonMobil to withdraw their activities from areas outside of the determined area of responsibility. The Department will take over the filtration units on homes outside of the determined area that have MtBE levels at or over 20ppb, as long as the home is not determined to be the source of their own contamination. We will also perform limited sampling of other homes around the residences where the Department is maintaining the filtration units. Again, this will be decided at the conclusion of the pump test and review of the data collected.

The Department has reviewed the latest dot map depicting the October supply well sampling. The map will be posted on our web site and ExxonMobil will provide copies to you tonight. Our interpretation of the latest map is that it does not indicate a significant change in MtBE levels in the Upper Crossroads area. We fully realize this map is two-dimensional and is only one piece of the investigation evidence being collected in the study area.

The SVE system remains active on site; the Department receives reporting on the function of the system. The Department also continues to review the site's active release detection methods to ensure the storage tank systems are not a further threat to the environment. Other Department activities within the study area include the former Scarff's Market and Walker's Garage. Both sites received Notice of Violations from the Department ordering further site study. Walker's has provided an investigation plan, which is now under review by the Department. Scarff has provided a letter stating his inability to proceed. The Department is reviewing our options in regards to Scarff. At this time there are no other violation actions within the study area. That does not mean there will not be further violation actions if conditions warrant.

The Department has also compiled the surface water sampling in a report that will be posted on our web site. Basically the sampling indicates no impact of VOC's, including MtBE, of the surface water in the Upper Crossroads area. However, we do feel that one stream south of the station warrants additional monitoring as this case progresses. This determination is based on the subsurface fracture trends in the area, not the detection of contamination.

We intend to provide the full community with an update letter reviewing the

information shared here tonight. At this time, I will ask that ExxonMobil provide an update on their activities that have taken place since the October report and current activities that have been approved by the Department. ExxonMobil will also update actions that they have taken that go beyond the requirements established by the Department.